

Top Gun

CARTEL #1



TOP GUN
25
YEARS

MARC BERNARDIN • ADAM FREEMAN • ROSI KAMPE • BRAD SIMPSON

THE FUTURE OF COMICS
25
YEARS
EST. 1997

Genius

CARTEL



WRITERS

Marc Bernardin & Adam Freeman

COLORIST

Brad Simpson

EDITORS

Elena Salcedo & Vince Longo

COVER A

Rosi Kampe

ARTIST

Rosi Kampe

LETTERER

Troy Peteri

PRODUCTION

Carey Hall

COVER B

Jonathan Hickman



For Top Cow Productions, Inc.

For Top Cow Productions, Inc.

Marc Silvestri - CEO

Matt Hawkins - President & COO

Elena Salcedo - Vice President of Operations

Henry Barajas - Director of Operations

Vincent Valentine - Production Manager

Dylan Gray - Marketing Director

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Robert Kirkman - Chief Operating Officer

Erik Larsen - Chief Financial Officer

Todd McFarlane - President

Marc Silvestri - Chief Executive Officer

Jim Valentino - Vice President

Eric Stephenson - Publisher

Carey Murphy - Director of Sales

Jeff Balaban - Director of Publishing Planning & Book Trade Sales

Chris Ross - Director of Digital Sales

Jeff Stang - Director of Specialty Sales

Kat Salcedo - Director of PR & Marketing

Braunwyn Bigglesworth - Controller

Kell Pagan - Senior Accounting Manager

Sue Korpela - Accounting & HR Manager

Draw Gill - Art Director

Heather Dorevink - Production Director

Leigh Thomas - Print Manager

Tyler Ramez - Traffic Manager

Brian Skelly - Publicist

Aly Hoffman - Events & Conventions Coordinator

Sasha Head - Sales & Marketing Production Designer

David Brothers - Branding Manager

Melissa Gifford - Content Manager

Drew Fitzgerald - Publicity Assistant

Vincent Kahue - Production Artist

Erika Schmitt - Production Artist

Ryan Brown - Production Artist

Shane Mahan - Production Artist

Garey Hall - Production Artist

Elbow Kim - Direct Market Sales Representative

Emilia Bautista - Digital Sales Representative

Leah Kauter - Accounting Assistant

Chloe Ramos-Peteran - Library Market Sales Representative

IMAGECOMICS.COM



To find the comic shop nearest you, call:
1-888-COMICBOOK

Want more info? Check out:
www.topcow.com
for news & exclusive Top Cow merchandise!

GENIUS CARTEL ISSUE ONE. AUGUST 2017. FIRST PRINTING

Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 780, Portland, OR 97210. GENIUS CARTEL™ © 2017 Top Cow Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. "GENIUS CARTEL," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of Top Cow Productions, Inc. unless otherwise noted. "Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of Top Cow Productions, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.

image

SAN PEDRO SULA,
MEXICO. NOW.

L-LOS
DEMONIOS
REGRESARÁN...

YEAH.

OLD
DEMONS
ALWAYS
RETURN.





LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA.
THEN.



"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
STUPIDITY AND GENIUS IS THAT
GENIUS HAS ITS LIMITS."

EINSTEIN.



I LIKE HOLBROOK
JACKSON BETTER.




"GENIUS IS
INITIATIVE..."

LA
STRONG

WE SUPPORT
THE LAPD

YOU ARE
NOT
THE LAW

...ON FIRE."



The Siege of
Los Angeles
has ended.

There will be no
fighting on the
streets of South
Central tonight.

For three days, the alleged
"greatest military mind of
our generation" wielded the
united gangs of L.A.
like a weapon, with the
sole purpose of sending a
message: "If you forget
that black lives matter,
ever again, we will remind
you with blood."

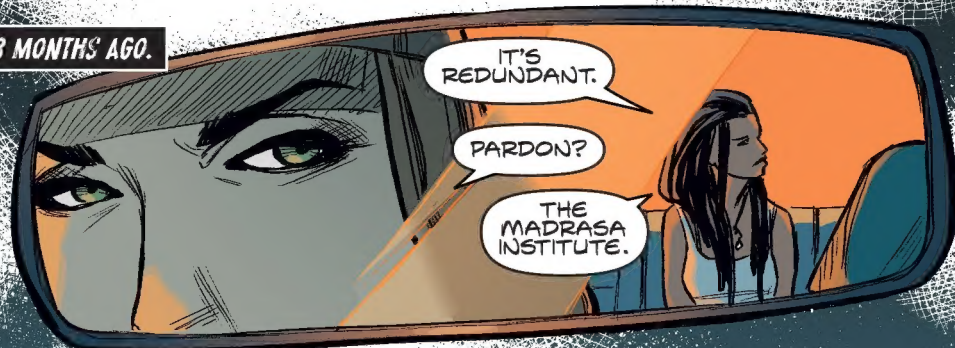
Message
received.

That mind
belongs to
17-year-old
Destiny Ajaye.
Brilliant.
Dangerous.

She has
surrendered to
an agent of
the clandestine
government agency
known as the
Madrassa Institute
in exchange for
no further police
action being
taken against
her soldiers.
Her people.

She will not be tried.
She will not go to prison.
Talent such as hers is
not to be wasted.

18 MONTHS AGO.



IT'S REDUNDANT.

PARDON?

THE MADRASA INSTITUTE.

"MADRASA," IN ARABIC, MEANS "EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION." IT'S LIKE CALLING A BASEBALL TEAM THE "LOS ANGELES ANGELS."

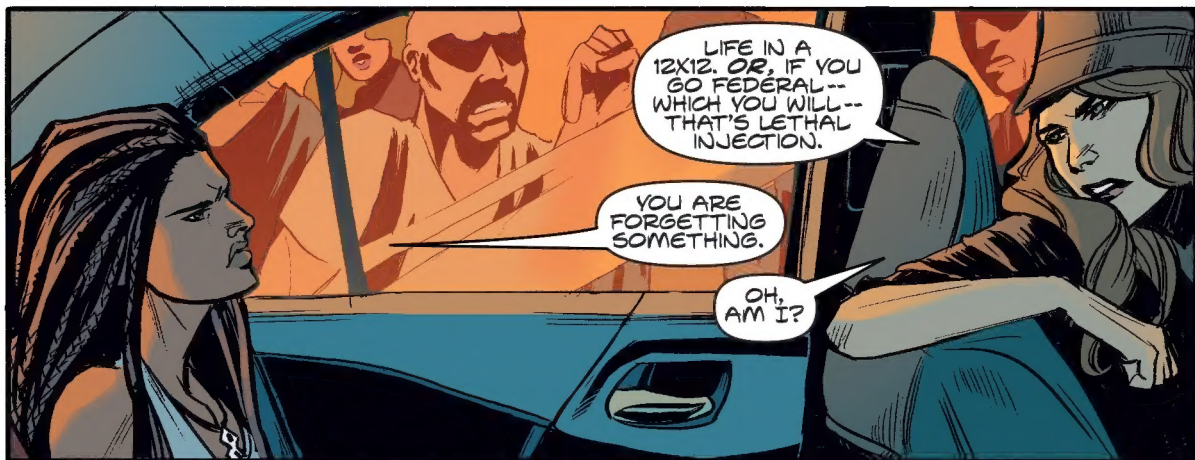
I TAKE IT WE'RE NOT IMPRESSING YOU SO FAR. YOU'LL WARM TO IT.

I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GOING.



EXCUSE ME.

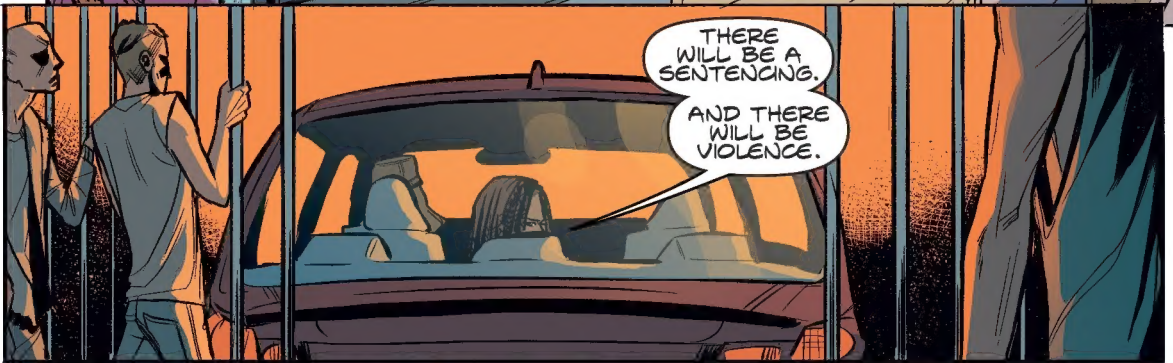
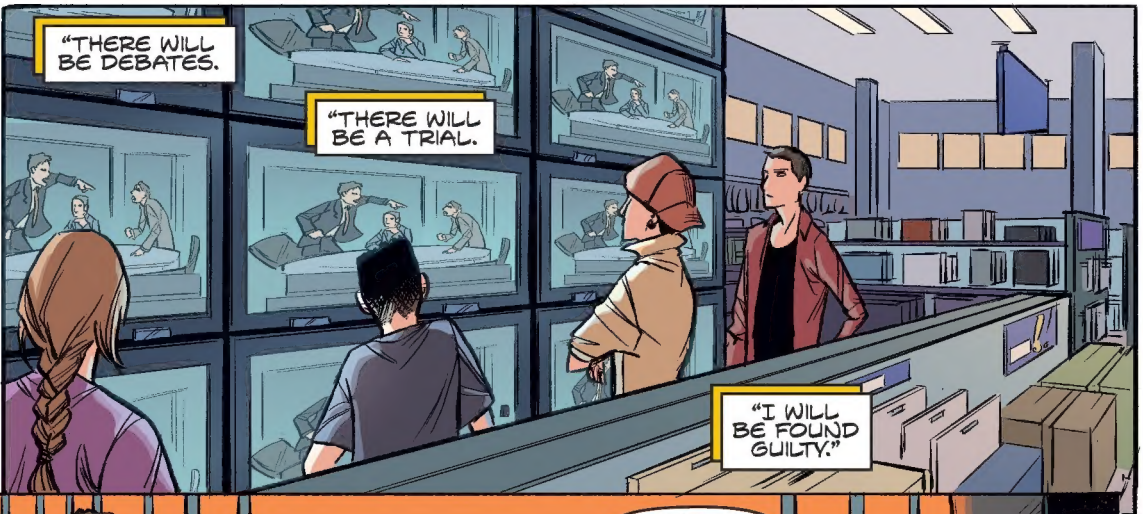
I SAID I WOULD SURRENDER. I SAID MY SOLDIERS WOULD LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. I DID NOT SAY THAT I WOULD ALLOW YOU TO DISSECT ME LIKE A FETAL PIG.



LIFE IN A 12X12. OR, IF YOU GO FEDERAL-- WHICH YOU WILL-- THAT'S LETHAL INJECTION.

YOU ARE FORGETTING SOMETHING.

OH, AM I?



A TRAGIC DESTINY



THIS IS ISABEL CORTINA WITH CHANNEL 9 BREAKING NEWS.
DESTINY AJAYE...IS DEAD.

BREAKING NEWS

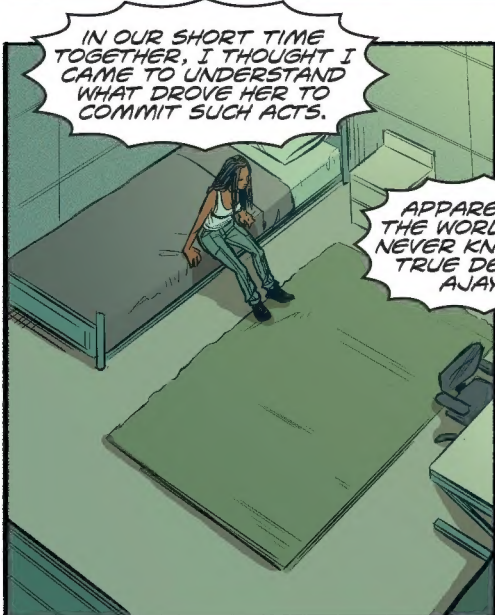


THE MASTERMIND BEHIND "THE SIEGE OF L.A." ...

...REPORTEDLY TOOK HER OWN LIFE IN A HOLDING CELL IN THE L.A. COUNTY JAIL AT APPROXIMATELY 4:30 P.M.



CONSIDERED A HERO BY SOME, A DOMESTIC TERRORIST BY OTHERS, I SPENT SOME TIME WITH DESTINY FOR THE CHANNEL 9 EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WE RAN YESTERDAY.

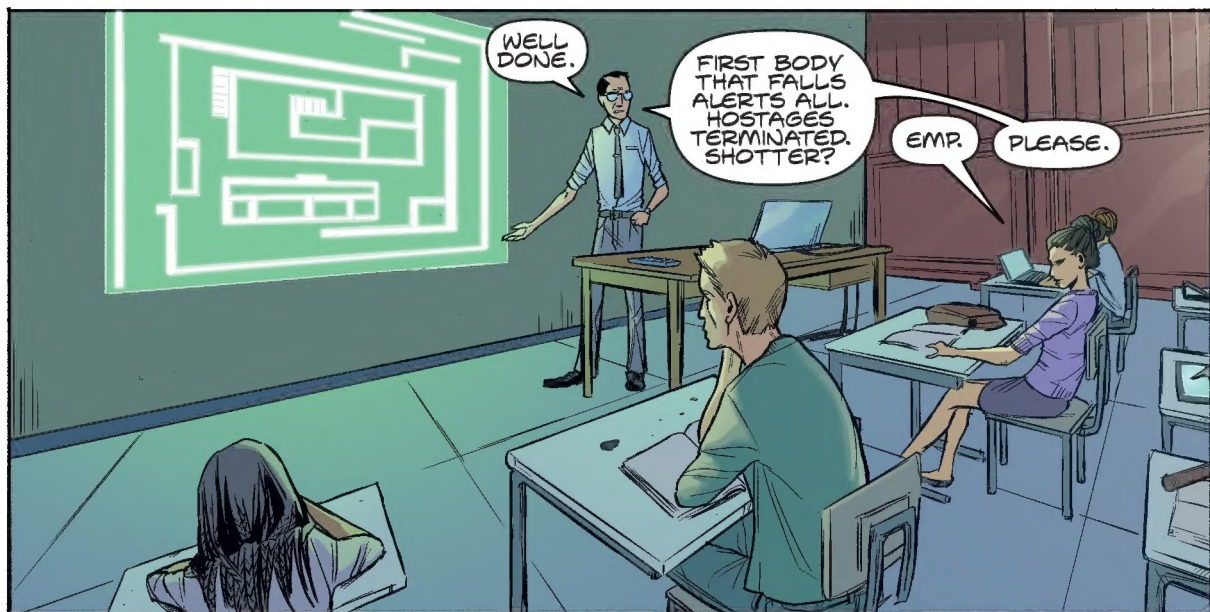
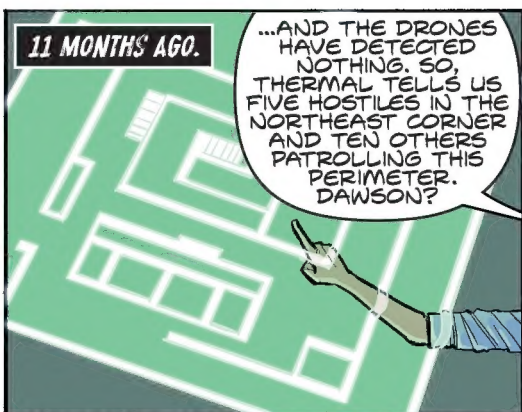



IN OUR SHORT TIME TOGETHER, I THOUGHT I CAME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DROVE HER TO COMMIT SUCH ACTS.



APPARENTLY, THE WORLD WILL NEVER KNOW THE TRUE DESTINY AJAYE.







AT THIS STAGE, HOSTAGES ARE USELESS. ANY INTEL THEY HAVE HAS BEEN RETRIEVED BY THE HOSTILES. PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN INITIATED, RENDERING IT OUTDATED.

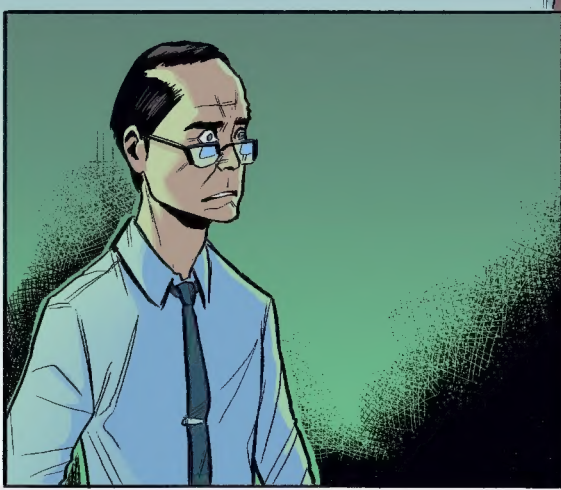
HOSTILE CELL LEADER IS A DIRECT CONDUIT TO THE REGIONAL LEADER. SONIC GIVES THEM A HEADACHE, IT DOESN'T CUT OFF THE HEAD. A BIG BOOM NEUTRALIZES ALL ENEMIES WITH ZERO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES OF CONSEQUENCE.

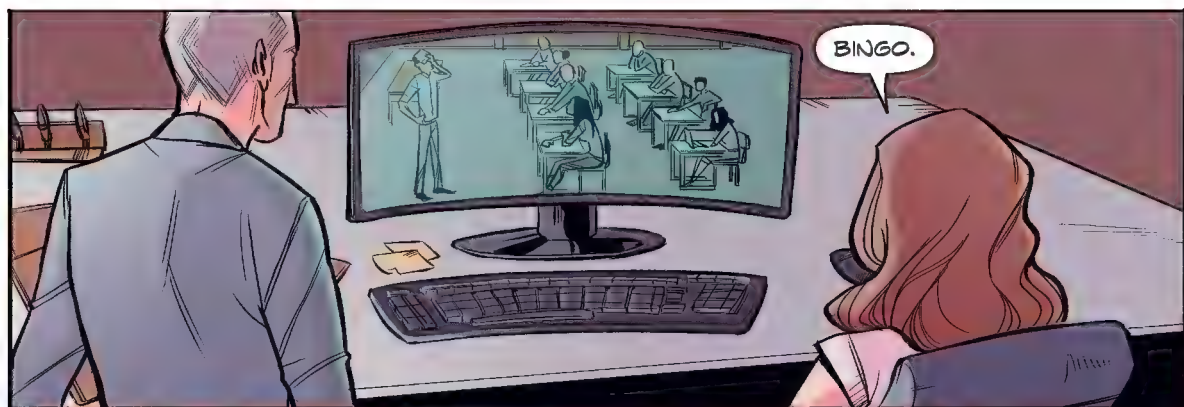
VICTORY HOLDS MORE VALUE THAN THREE ERRAND BOYS WITH COMPROMISED DATA.

TO RISK EVEN A SINGLE ASSET'S LIFE FOR TWO COMPROMISED, COLLATERAL DAMAGE POSTER BOYS IS BULLSHIT.



WHAT.
THE
FUCK.



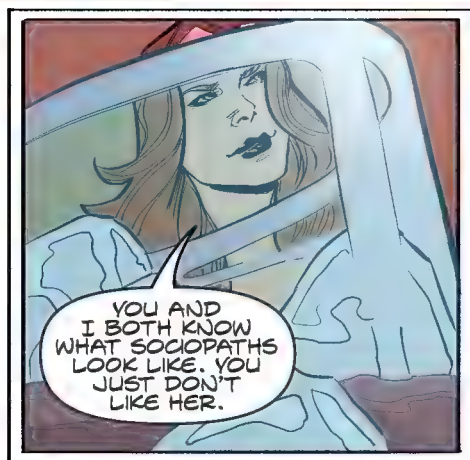


BINGO.

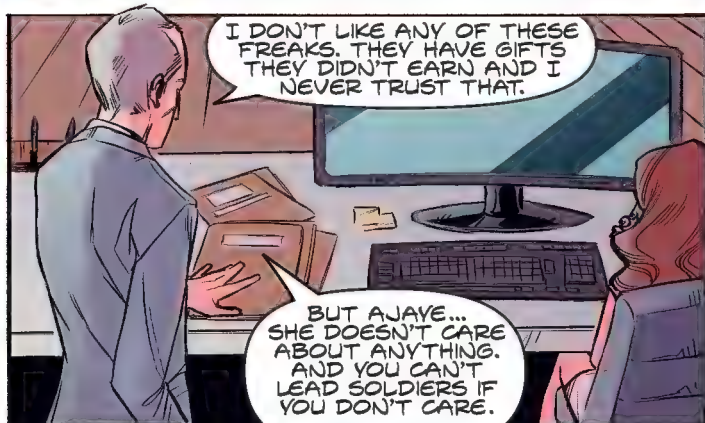


SHE'S READY.

SHE'S A SOCIOPATH.

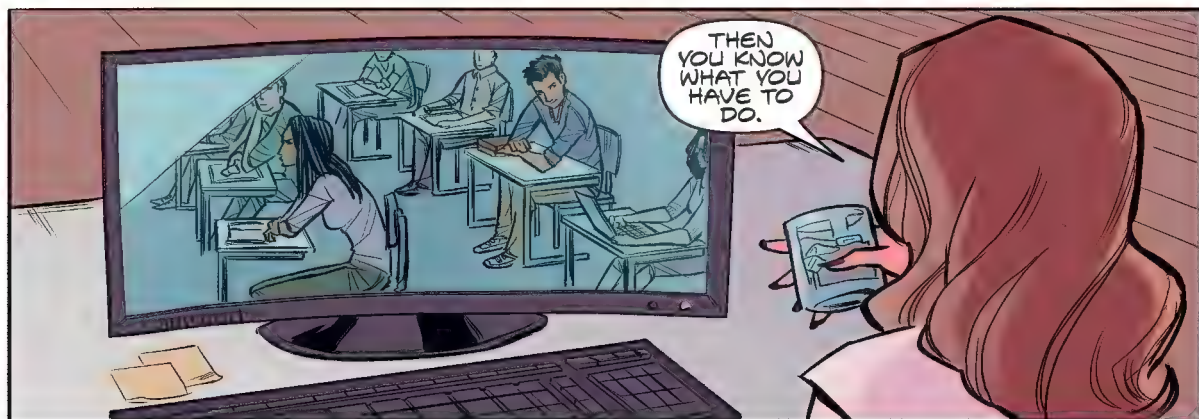


YOU AND I BOTH KNOW WHAT SOCIOPATHS LOOK LIKE. YOU JUST DON'T LIKE HER.



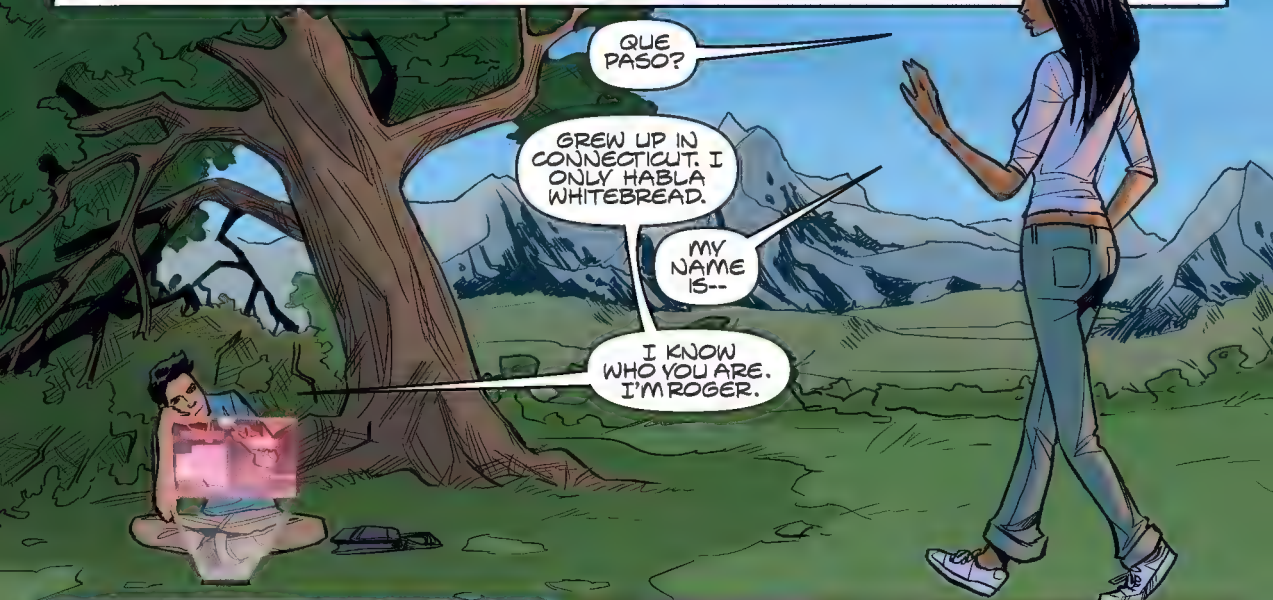
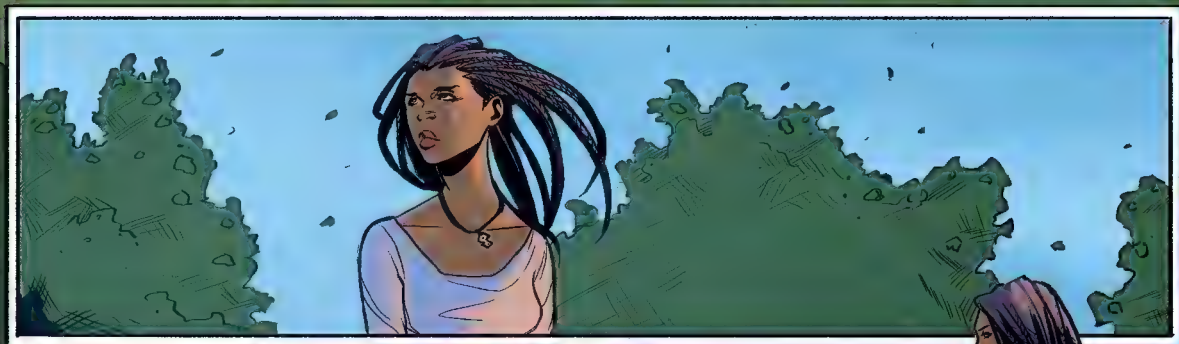
I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THESE FREAKS. THEY HAVE GIFTS THEY DIDN'T EARN AND I NEVER TRUST THAT.

BUT AJAVE... SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING. AND YOU CAN'T LEAD SOLDIERS IF YOU DON'T CARE.



THEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

"MAKE HER
CARE."



QUE PASO?

GREW UP IN
CONNECTICUT. I
ONLY HABLA
WHITEBREAD.

MY
NAME
IS--

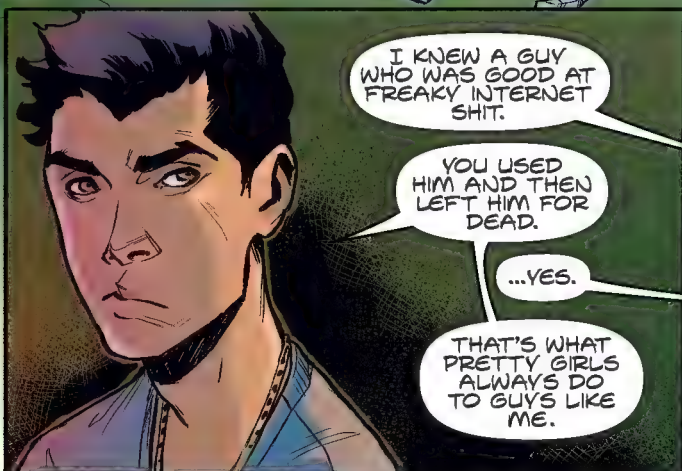
I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.
I'M ROGER.



WHAT ARE YOU
IN FOR?

YOU MAKE
IT SOUND
LIKE IT'S A
PRISON.

FREAKY
INTERNET
SHIT.

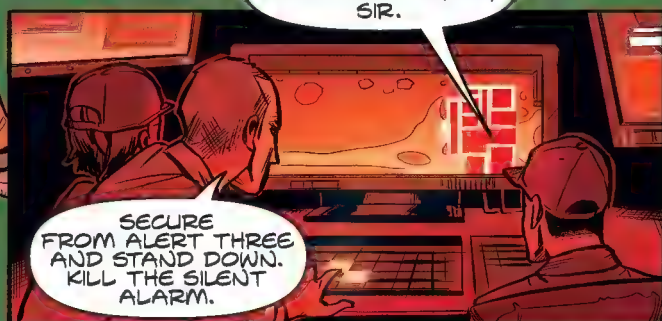
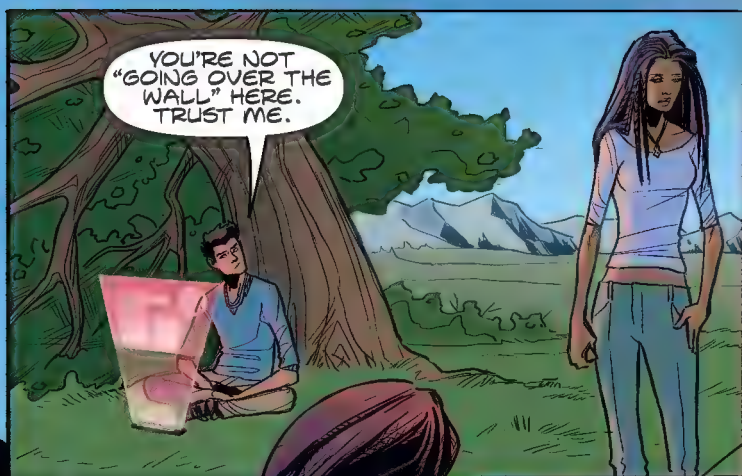


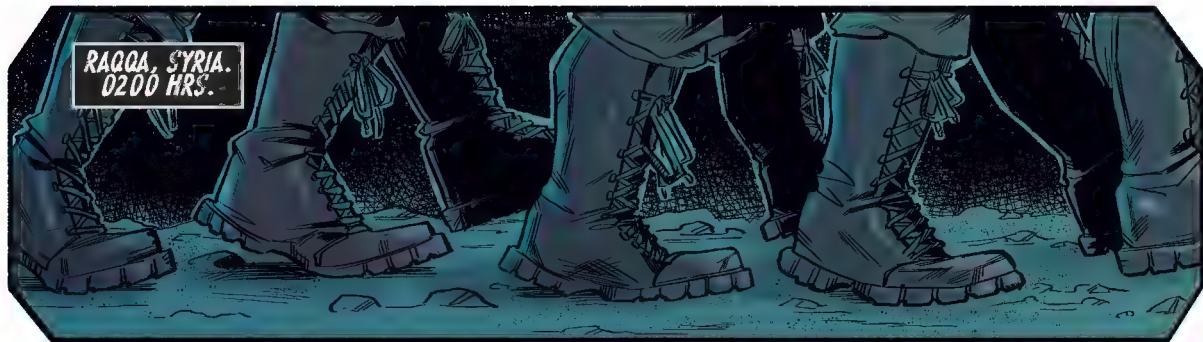
I KNEW A GUY
WHO WAS GOOD AT
FREAKY INTERNET
SHIT.

YOU USED
HIM AND THEN
LEFT HIM FOR
DEAD.

...YES.

THAT'S WHAT
PRETTY GIRLS
ALWAYS DO
TO GUYS LIKE
ME.





RAQQA, SYRIA.
0200 HRS.



VISUAL CONFIRMATION.
REPEAT, VISUAL
CONFIRMATION.

THE TWO HOSTAGES
ARE MOST LIKELY IN THE
NORTHEAST CORNER OF
THE UPPER TOWER.



THERMAL
SHOWS--

FIVE HOSTILES AROUND THE
TOWER. TEN BOGEYS WORKING
THE PERIMETER.

UM,
YEAH.

HOW'D
SHE
KNOW?

ALL THOSE MINDS IN ONE
CLASSROOM. WHY RUN STUDENTS
THROUGH SIMULATIONS WHEN YOU
CAN HAVE THEM PREP ACTUAL OPS?

AND WITH BOOTS ALREADY
ON THE GROUND MY SMART
BOMB ASSESSMENT IS NO
LONGER AN OPTION.



FROST, DRAKE,
WIERZBOWSKI:
APPROACH FROM
THE SOUTHWEST.
TAKE OUT THE
TOWER AND
THE--

SERGEANT...



I DON'T
CARE HOW
BIG YOUR
BRAIN IS,
SPECIALIST
AJAYE. THIS
IS MY OP.
COPY?

IF WE EVER
NEED TO KILL
SOME METER
MAIDS, YOU'LL
BE MY FIRST
CALL.



COPY.
SIR.



WE ARE ALL
DEAD.



WE DO NOT TAKE THE
SOUTHWEST TOWER.

WE DO NOT NEUTRALIZE
THE EXTERIOR HOSTILES.

WE DO NOT ELIMINATE
ALL TARGETS.





CAVALRY'S
HERE,
BOYS.



BAKER!
STAND
DOWN,
THEY'RE
NOT--

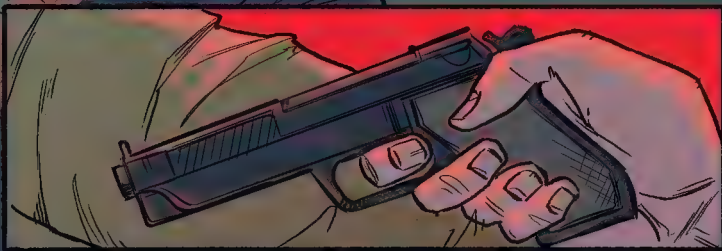
FUCK OFF
AJAVE, THESE
BOYS ARE
LIKE SONS
TO ME.

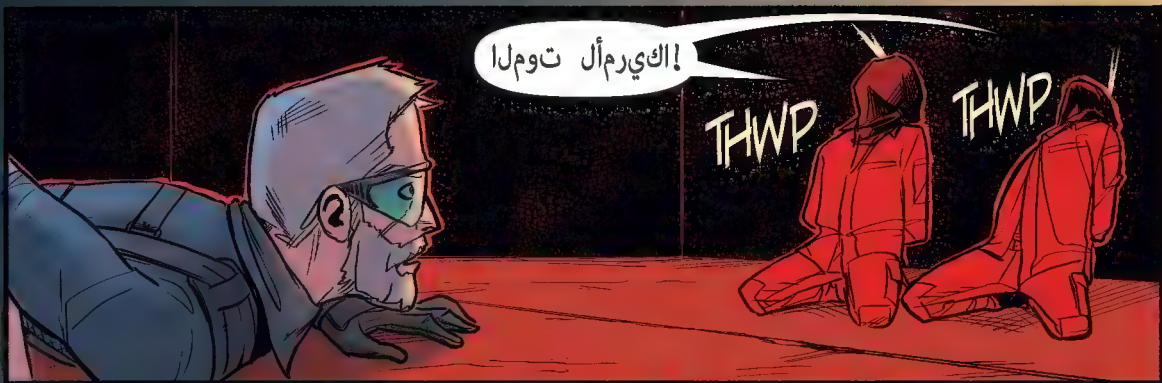


GET
DOWN!

K TWWPD

FUCK!





الكيرم آل توم!

THWP

THWP

THERE ARE NO
HOSTAGES. NO
"GONS" TO
RECOVER.

DECOYS.

HOSTILES
ELIMINATED.



YOU
LITTLE SHIT, I'M
GONNA--

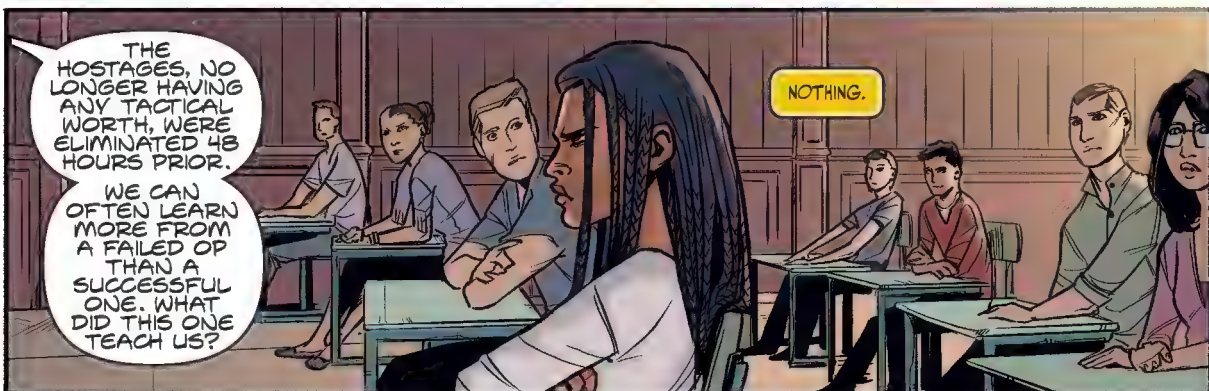
YOU CAN
DO ANYTHING
YOU WANT,
SERGEANT.

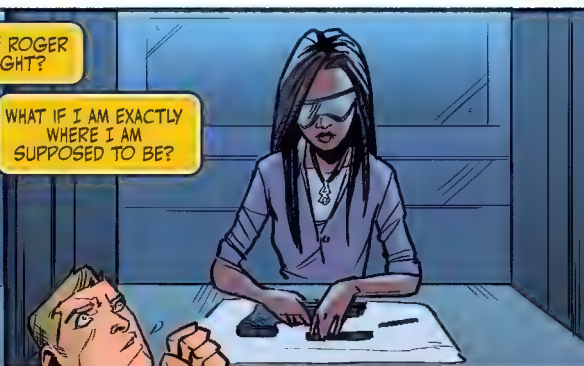
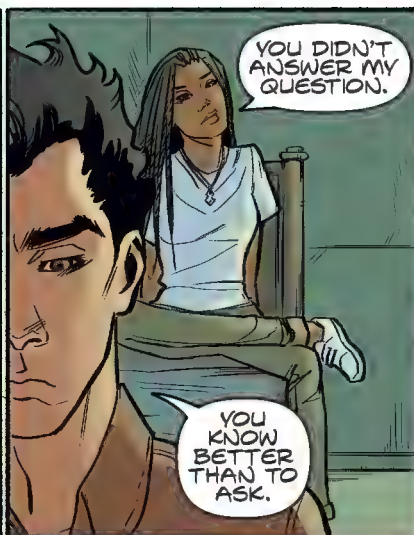
YOU'RE
ALIVE.

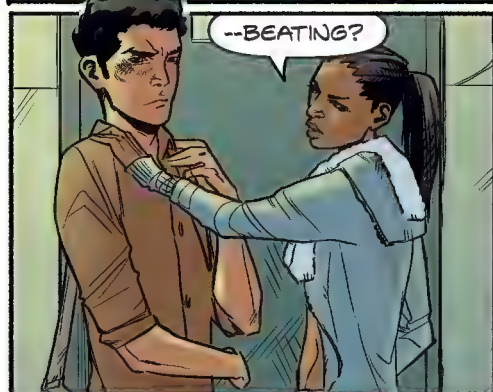
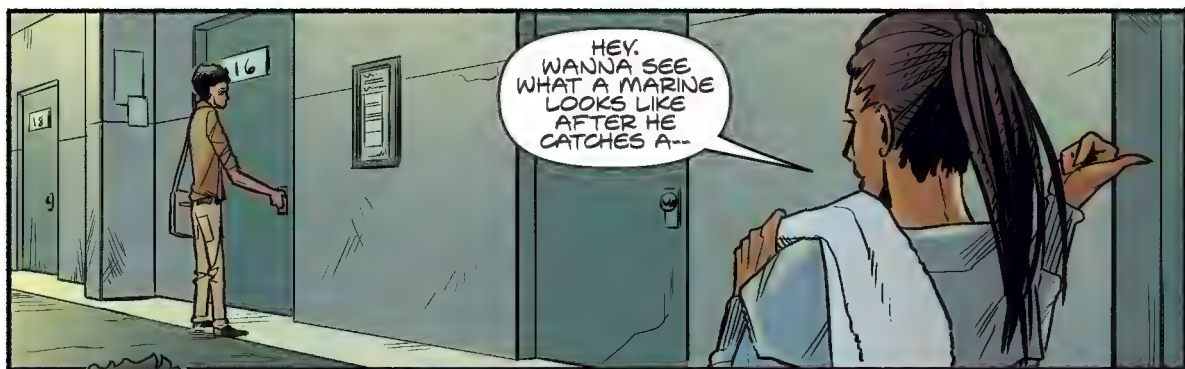
THE
HOSTAGES, NO
LONGER HAVING
ANY TACTICAL
WORTH, WERE
ELIMINATED 48
HOURS PRIOR.

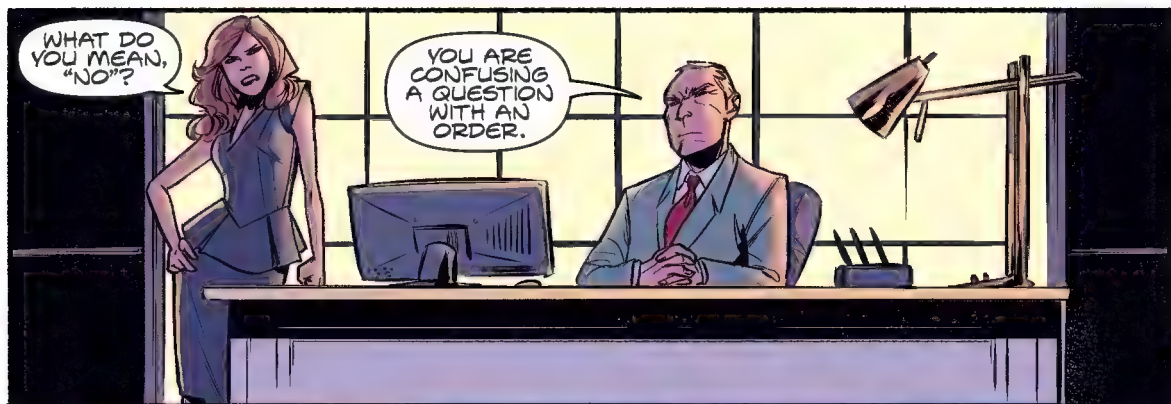
WE CAN
OFTEN LEARN
MORE FROM
A FAILED OP
THAN A
SUCCESSFUL
ONE. WHAT
DID THIS ONE
TEACH US?

NOTHING.









WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NO"?

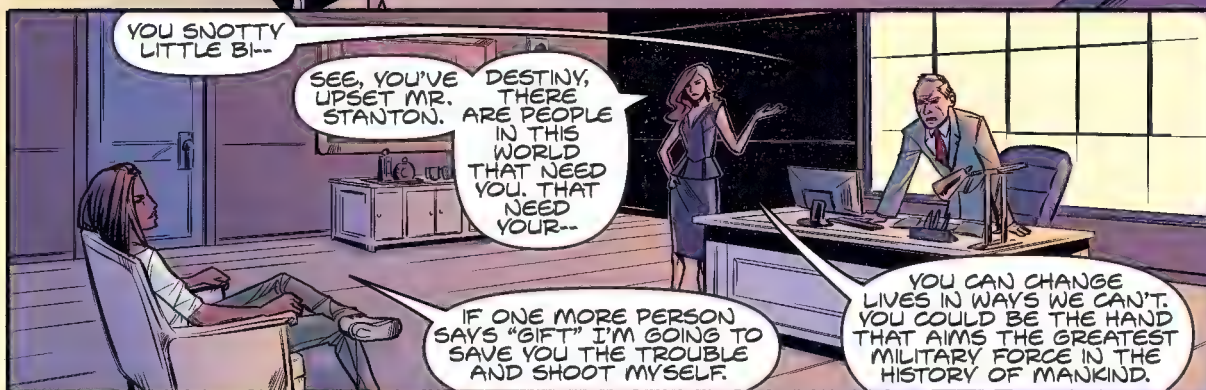
YOU ARE CONFUSING A QUESTION WITH AN ORDER.



YOU WANT TO DISSECT ME? PICK ME APART TO SEE WHAT MAKES ME TICK? HELL, ATTEMPT TO TEACH ME THINGS I ALREADY KNOW? SURE. WHY NOT.

BUT IF YOU THINK MY PURPOSE ON EARTH IS TO TRAVEL THE WORLD AND KILL WHICHEVER BROWN PEOPLE YOU DON'T LIKE THIS YEAR FOR REASONS "ABOVE MY PAY GRADE"...

NO.



YOU SNOTTY LITTLE BI--

SEE, YOU'VE UPSET MR. STANTON.

DESTINY, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD THAT NEED YOU. THAT NEED YOUR--

IF ONE MORE PERSON SAYS "GIFT" I'M GOING TO SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE AND SHOOT MYSELF.

YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES IN WAYS WE CAN'T. YOU COULD BE THE HAND THAT AIMS THE GREATEST MILITARY FORCE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.



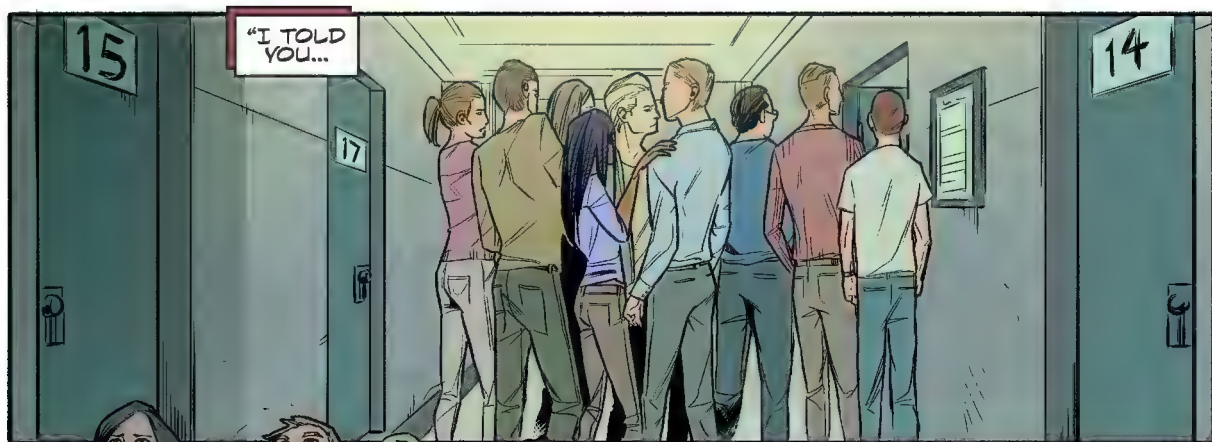
YOU COULD DO GREAT THINGS, DESTINY. WE NEED SOMEONE WITH YOUR PASSION--

PASSION? I WAGED A WAR BECAUSE MY PEOPLE NEEDED A WAR TO BE WAGED. MY PEOPLE. THE BLOOD SPILLED WAS OUR BLOOD. IT WASN'T PASSION. IT WAS PRESERVATION.



NOTHING HAS GONE THE WAY YOU PROMISED. I WANT THIS...RESPONSIBILITY ELIMINATED.

NO, NOT YET. SHE CAN BEAT HER CHEST ALL SHE WANTS. I SEE IT IN HER EYES. SHE ENJOYS IT.



CONTINUED...

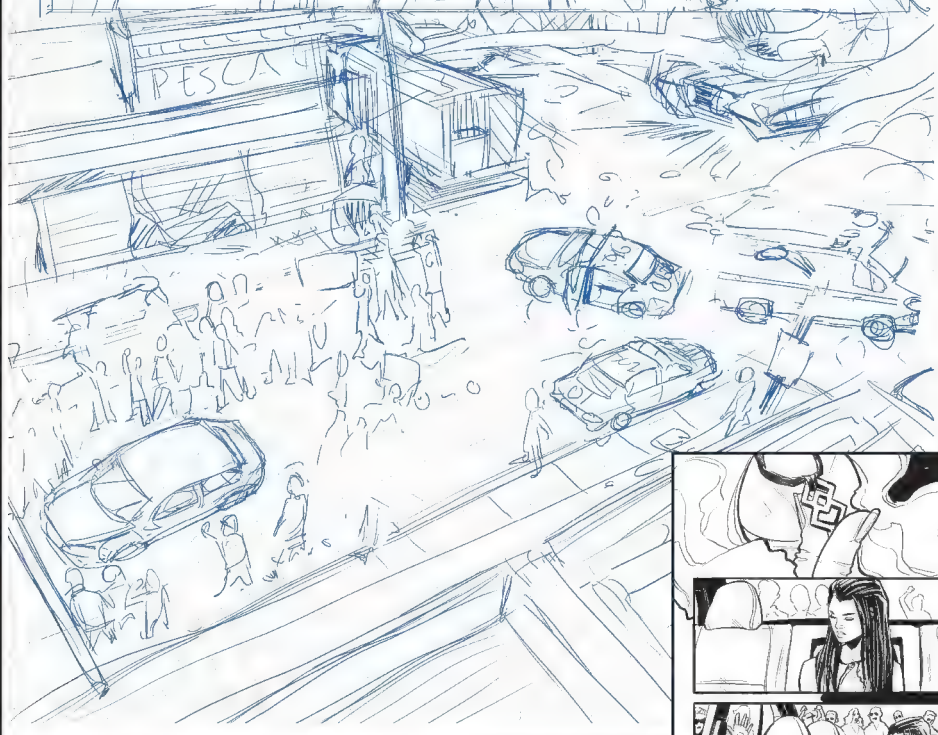
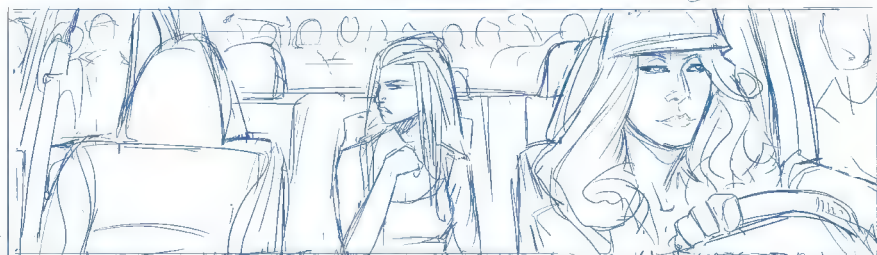
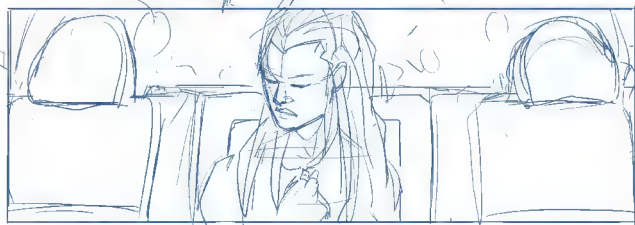
NEXT ISSUE

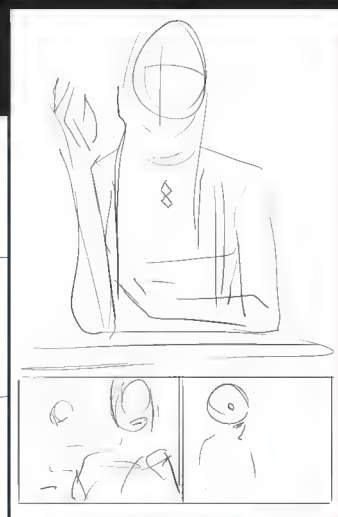
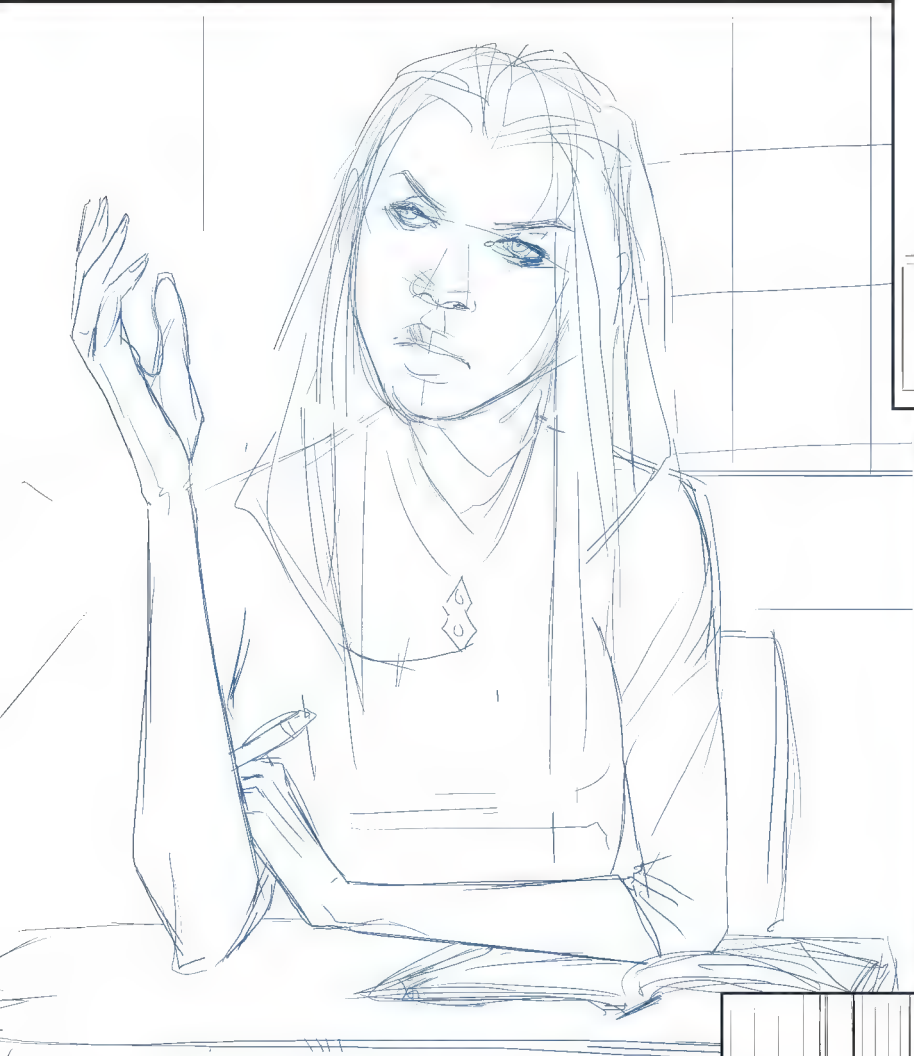
Cartel

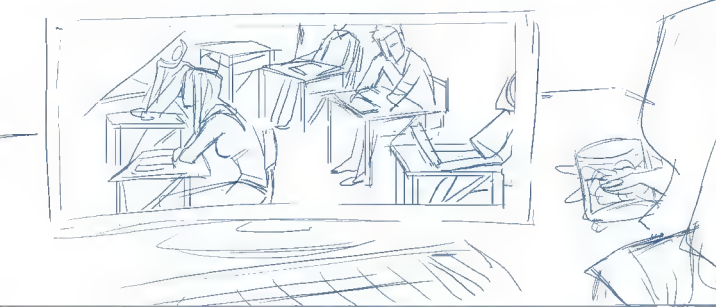
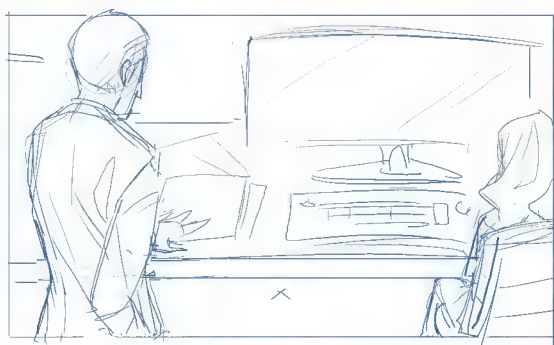
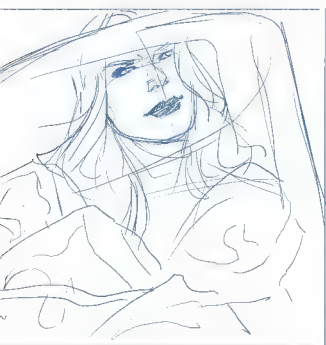
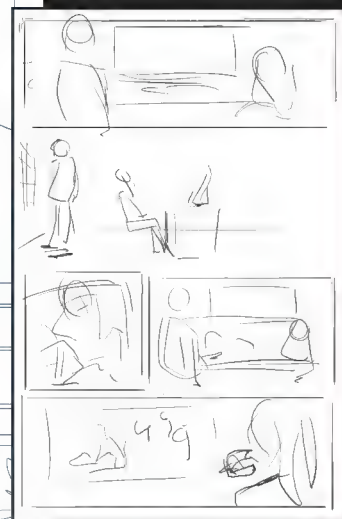
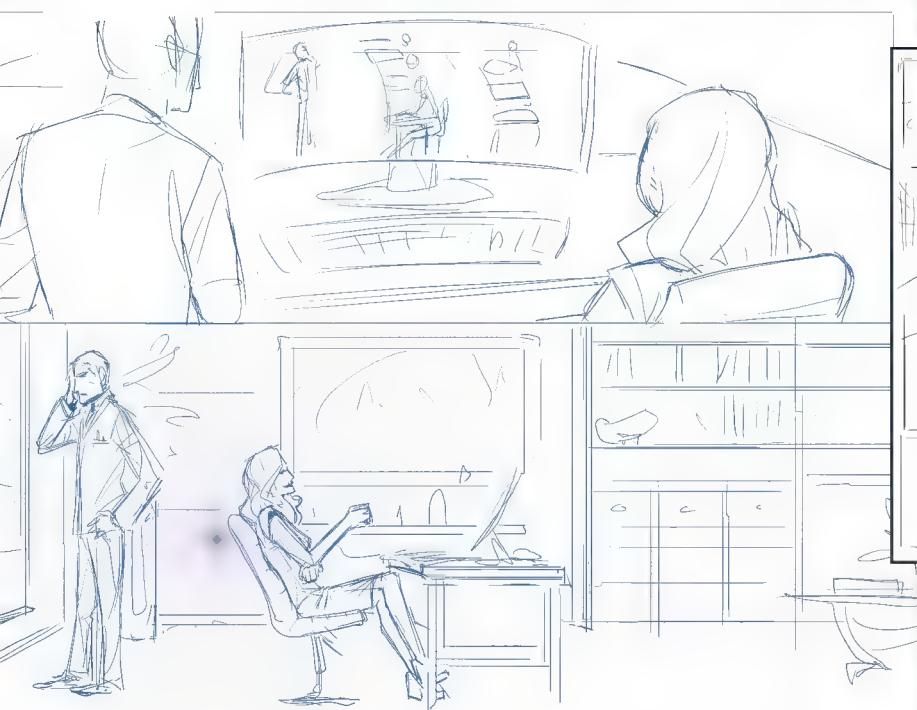
CARTEL #2

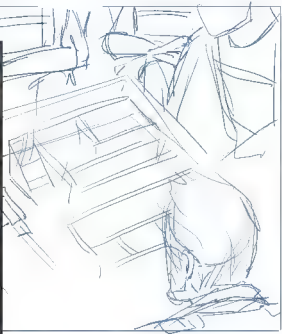
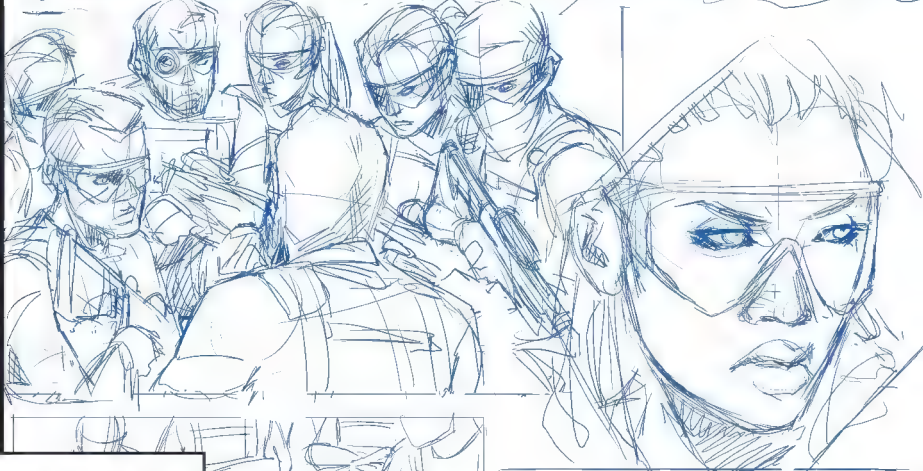
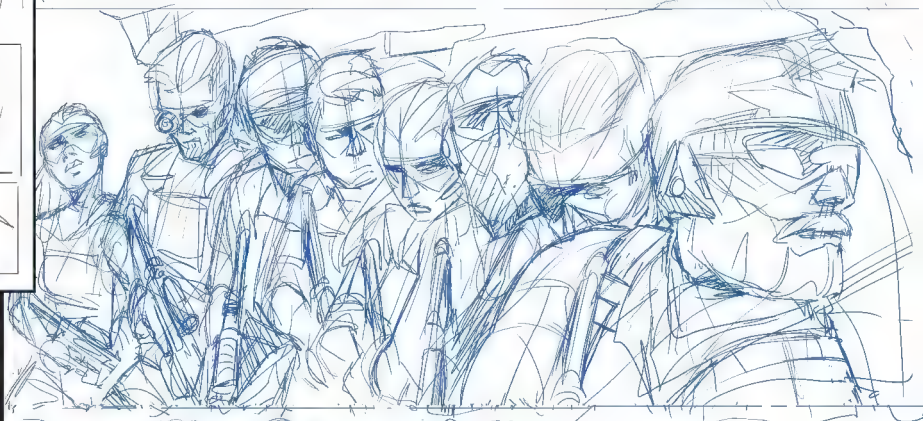


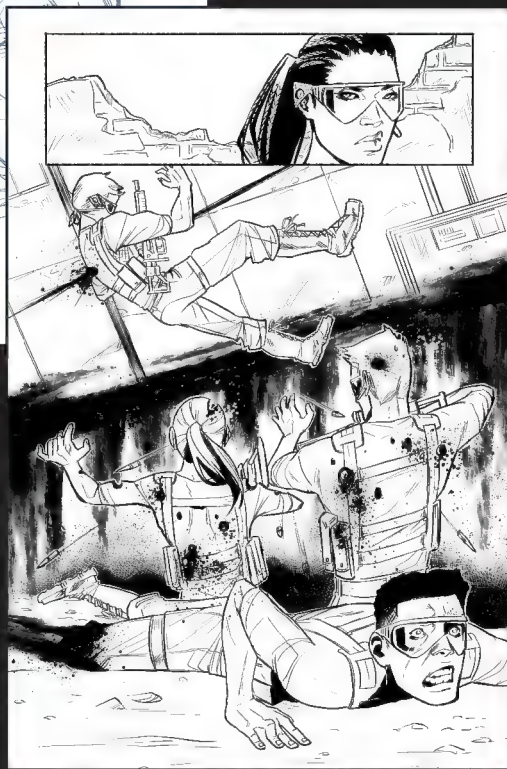
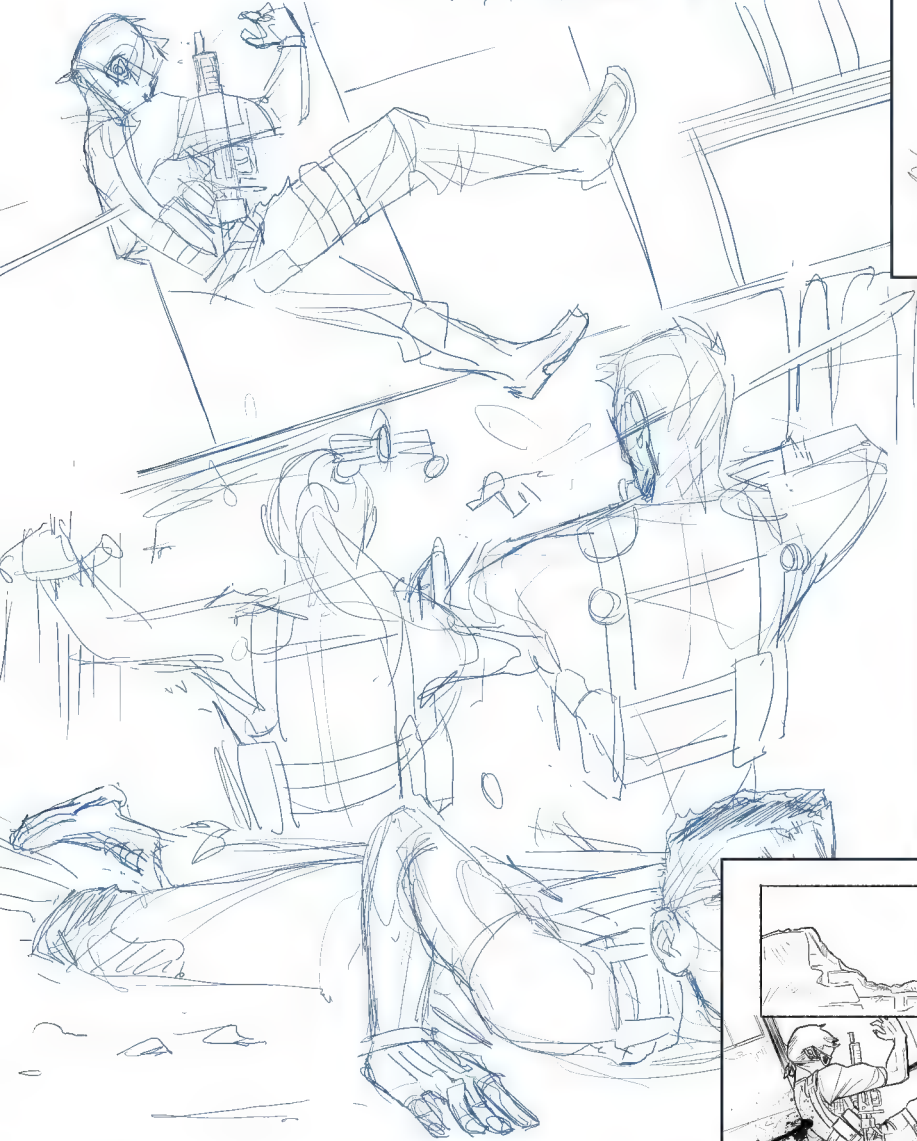
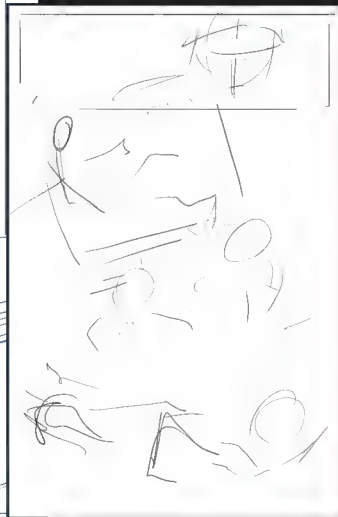
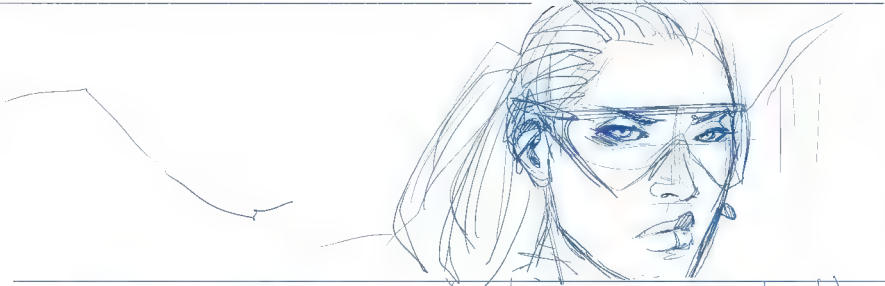
ROSI KAMPE PROCESS PAGES

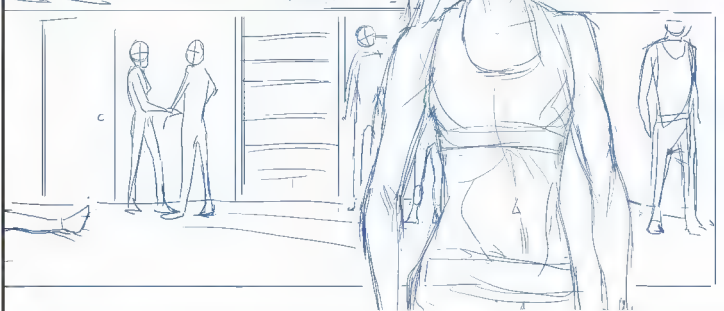
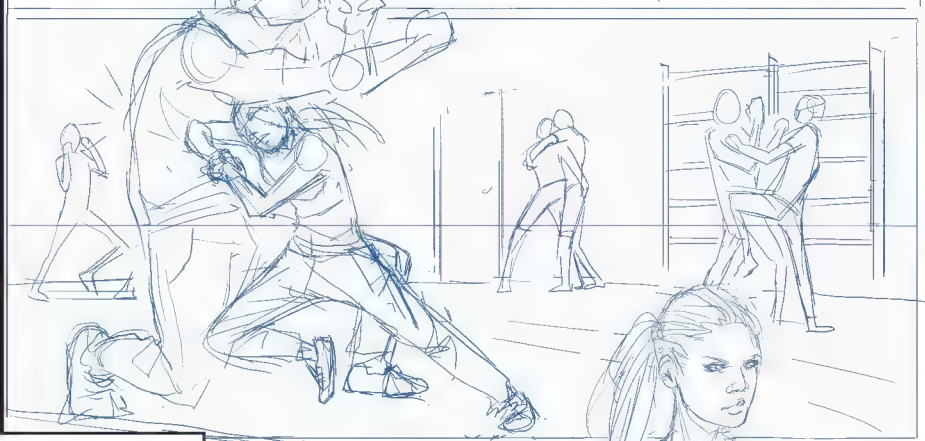
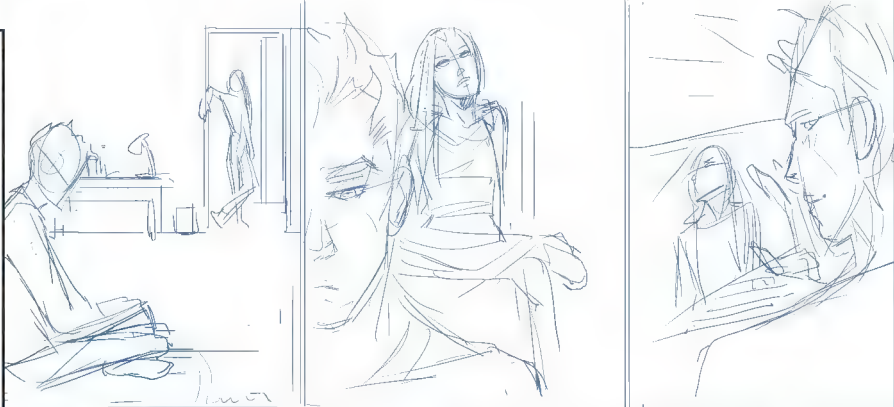














GOLGOTHA™

MATT HAWKINS • BRYAN HILL • YUKI SAEKI • BRYAN VALENZA

**This planet holds secrets—secrets that
could change the nature of mankind itself.**

OCTOBER 2017



IMAGECOMICS.COM

GOLGOTHA™ © 2017 Matt Hawkins & Top Cow Productions, Inc.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image
Comics Inc. All rights reserved.



MATT HAWKINS

RAHSAN EKEDAL

THINK TANK

ANIMAL 4



**"A potent metaphor
for our country's
entanglement
with the military-
industrial complex."**

— NPR.org

AVAILABLE NOW

RATED M / MATURE

IMAGECOMICS.COM

THINK TANK™ © 2017 Matt Hawkins, Rahsan Ekedal, & Top Cow Productions.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks
of Image Comics Inc. All rights reserved.





KEEP IT

